

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 04804 131108Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-01 OMB-01 HA-05 SY-05 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----119646 140246Z /73

R 130927Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY COMPLETED IN FAHMI BASYA CASE

REF: JAKARTA 2165

1. SUMMARY: THE LAST WITNESS WAS HEARD APRIL 12 IN THE TRIAL OF FAHMI BASYA, ACCUSED OF HOLDING EXTREMIST MOSLEM VIEWS AND PLANNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE. AFTER SEVERAL WITNESSES REFUSED TO TESTIFY OR BE SWORN, SOME OF WHOM WERE DETAINED BY AUTHORITIES, THE FINAL WITNESS CONFIRMED ALLEGATIONS THAT FAHMI PLANNED TO ATTACK "DENS OF INIQUITY- IN JAKARTA BUT COULD GIVE NO DETAILS. ON MAY 3 THE PROSECUTION WILL PRESENT ITS DEMAND FOR THE SENTENCE. WHATEVER THE RESULT, FAHMI CAN EXPECT LITTLE PUBLIC SYMPATHY EVEN FROM DEVOUT MOSLEMS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 JAKART 04804 131108Z

2. TESTIMONY WAS COMPLETED APRIL 12 IN THE TRIAL OF FAHMI BASYA, A FORMER UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACCUSED OF RADICAL MOSLEM CONNECTIONS AND PLANNING ACTS OF ARSON AND ASSASSINATION, AFTER A SERIES OF DELAYS AND OBSTRUCTIONS AIN PREVIOUS WEEKS CAUSED BY WITNESSES' REFUSLA TO OBSERVE LEGAL FORMS. SOME WITNESSES DECLINED TO TESTIFY, WHILE OTHERS REFUSED TO BE SWORN. THE LAST WITNESS, UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI)

STUDENT MOHAMMAD SARDJONO, HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR TWO WEEKS FOR REFUSING TO TAKE THE OATH IN COURT BEFORE FINALLY AGREEING TO TESTIFY.

3. SARDJONO ADMITTED KNOWING FAHMI BASYA SINCE 1975, WHEN THEY WERE BOTH BOARD MEMBERS OF A JAKARTA MOSQUE. HE COULD PROVIDE NO DETAILS OF FAHMI'S ACTIVIST LECTURES AND SERMONS OR HIS ALLEGED STOCKPILING OF AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES, BUT HE AFFIRMED THAT THE ACCUSED WAS INDEED PLANNING TO BLOW UP GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER "DENS OF INIQUITY" IN JAKARTA. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN FAHMI PRACTICING SHOOTING WITH AN AIR RIFLE NEAR THE MOSQUE. FAHMI HIMSELF REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT THE SESSION.

4. THE TRIAL HAS BEEN RECESSED UNTIL MAY 3, AT WHICH TIME THE PROSECUTOR WILL PRESENT HIS DEMAND FOR THE SENTENCE.

5. COMMENT: SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF A DEVOTED COTERIE OF FAHMI'S FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS. (THE MOST DEVOTED, A UI CO-ED NAMED RUDIASTUTI, WAS DETAINED FOR ONE WEEK FOR PARODYING THE ISLAMIC OATH "I SWEAR TO ALLAH" BY STATING "I SWEAR TO FAHMI BASYA".) THE WITNESSES HAVE ESTABLISHED FAHMI'S VIEWS AND MOTIVES, BUT HIS SPECIFIC PLANS FOR ACTION HAVE NOT BEEN CLEARLY REVEALED. FAHMI'S OWN SILENCE THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL MAY SERVE AS A BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT CHARGES FROM HIS FOLLOWERS THAT HIS SENTENCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 JAKART 04804 131108Z

WHATEVER IT MAY BE, IS ARBITRARY AND UNFAIR. FEW PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MOSLEM COMMUNITY WILL BE WILLING TO RISK AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR FAHMI, HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO CONNECT HIM WITH THE EXTREMIST KOMANDO JIHAD MOVEMENT, THE GENERAL CRACKDOWN ON MOSLEM DISSIDENTS, AND THE ALLEGATION THAT FAHMI INTENDED TO KILL THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF MORALITY. MASTERS

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